

ABSTRACT

5 A printing plate mounted on an external drum platesetter is
verified to be securely fastened to the drum using an autofocus system
prior to spinning the drum to maximum operating speed. An autofocus
mode is employed to set a reference signal using a light beam and
light sensor. After establishing the reference signal at one end of
the plate, the system switches to a second mode of operation where the
autofocus system is fixed, and the reference signal is monitored as
10 the drum and plate are rotated. If the reference signal deviates from
the initial value, the rotation of the drum is stopped and an operator
is alerted.